

Message Text

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FROM AG OFFICER
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR
SUBJECT: PRC AID TO VIETNAM

1. A LENGTHY PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE OF JULY 22 COMMENTED ON THE IN-GRATITUDE OF THE VIETNAMESE FOR CHINA'S HELP DURING THE WAR YEARS. THE ARTICLE DISCUSSED THAT MOST OF CHINA'S AID WAS AN OUTRIGHT GIFT AND ONLY A SMALL PROPORTION WAS INTEREST-FREE LOANS. AMONG THE THINGS

THE PRC PROVIDED WERE SEVERAL MILLION TONS OF FOOD GRAIN AND SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION METERS OF COTTON CLOTH. WHEN THE WAR ENDED, ACCORDING TO THE COMMENTARY, CHINA'S AID TO VIETNAM BEGAN TO DECREASE BECAUSE CHINA WANTED "TO TAKE A BREATH." DURING 1975 AND 1976 WHEN CHINA WAS EXPERIENCING GREAT DIFFICULTIES OF HER OWN, BOTH BECAUSE OF THE GANG OF FOUR AND NATURAL CATASTROPHES (THE TANGSHAN EARTHQUAKE FOR EXAMPLE), CHINA HAD TO REDUCE HER AID TO VIETNAM-- A SITUATION THE VIETNAMESE OUGHT TO APPRECIATE.

2. COMMENT: THE ARTICLE DID NOT MENTION DELIVERY PERIODS BUT APPARENTLY MOST OF THE AGRICULTURAL AID WAS GIVEN DURING THE LATE 60'S AND EARLY 70'S. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FOOD GRAIN AND COTTON
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PAGE 02 HONG K 09780 241230Z

CLOTH SHIPPED TO VIETNAM WAS NOT DISCLOSED BUT APPARENTLY WAS SUBSTANTIAL. MOST OF THE GRAIN WAS PROBABLY SUPPLIED AFTER CHINA'S DOMESTIC SUPPLY BEGAN TO IMPROVE IN 1970. CHINA BEGAN TO EXPORT COTTON PIECE GOODS IN GREAT QUANTITIES AFTER 1965 AND SIZEABLE QUANTITIES WERE LIKELY SENT TO VIETNAM. IN VIEW OF THE APPRECIABLE QUANTITIES INVOLVED, THE TWO ITEMS SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN THE ASSESSMENT OF THE S&D TABLES INVOLVED.

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